Land becoming barren in Chhattisgarh

1284. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to pollution in Chhattisgarh, 50,000 acres of cultivable land in Simaga, Siitara and Mandir Hasaud has turned into barren land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that recently Indira Gandhi Agriculture University conducted a survey on this issue, if so, the details of its recommendations and how Government are going to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such report has been received.

(c) According to information given by the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University no study has been conducted on this issue by them.

Agricultural Universities

1285. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities functioning in the country, at present;

(b) whether Government periodically review their work to provide benefit to the poor rural agriculturists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are 38 State Agricultural Universities in the country including Veterinary and Fisheries Universities at present.

(b) and (c) Agricultural Education is a State subject. The State Agricultural Universities are under the administrative control of the concerned State Government. Indian Council of Agricultural Research/ Department of Agricultural Research & Education provides financial